



The PSS Gazette

Notes From the Chair Ed Cohen

It's been a long time coming, but welcome to the Newsletter of the Department of Political Science and Sociology at Westminster College. We hope that this newsletter provides you with a useful update of the many and exciting activities and changes happening in the department. I want to take this opportunity to review these developments, and introduce the rest of the newsletter.

First, after ten years of service, Dr. Gary Lilly has retired from the role of Department Chair, and left it in my hands. I have been at Westminster since 1996, and teach in the areas of political philosophy, constitutional law, and public policy. My research interests focus around the issues of globalization, and I am currently working on the interaction between international economic law and the politics of globalization. I have served on a number of faculty committees and

chaired the Faculty Development Committee, but believe that the role of Department Chair will be my most challenging (and satisfying, I hope!) form of service to the College. As part of this change, Dr. Kristin Park will serve as Coordinator of the Sociology program.

Well, that's enough from me; you can read more about all of these topics in the following pages. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or just want to re-establish contact, feel free to call or write any one of us.

For the record,

my office phone is 724-946-7304,

the department office number is

724-946-7253,

and my e-mail address is cohenes@westminster.edu.

And...make sure to thank Deb Sanchez, our department secretary, for the excellent job she has done in putting this newsletter together.

What is Going on in the Department?

To begin with, both Political Science and Sociology continue to be vibrant majors at the College, attracting students from a variety of backgrounds.

Together, we account for close to ten percent of the students at Westminster. As you will see, our students do challenging research, take on exciting internships, and pursue a variety of interesting directions after graduation. We are proud of their accomplishments, and believe that these

reflect well on the education we are able to provide them.

Our faculty are busy in the classroom, but active outside of it. We are pursuing research on topics as diverse as gender (in)equality in the legal profession, the politics of globalization, the social significance of obituaries, the nature of authoritarianism, the choices of couples without children, and the activity of constitutional courts in new democracies. We also play a significant role on campus. *(continued on page2)*

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Special points of interest:

The program in political science is designed to provide the student with a knowledge of political theory, of the American political system, of the political systems of other areas of the world, and of international politics and institutions.

Sociology is the scientific study of human behavior as interpreted and experienced in groups. Sociology's emphasis on interaction and meaning makes "us more aware of the motives behind our actions, as well as of their consequences." The department emphasizes multicultural perspectives and material to broaden the outlook of its majors.

Dr. Rhoads on the Road

James C. Rhoads, Associate Professor of Political Science, recently had two manuscripts accepted for publication.

He is one of a number of scholars who contributed an essay to "Commentaries on 'The Future of Q Methodology'" in the journal, *Operant Subjectivity*.

Additionally, he authored the entry for "Q Methodology" in the *Encyclopedia of Measurement and Statistics* by

Sage Publications, which is slated for an October 2006 publication.

Rhoads also recently conducted a workshop on "Q Methodology" at the annual meeting of The International Society for the Scientific Study of Subjectivity (ISSSS) in late September.

Rhoads, a past President of ISSSS, led this workshop at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway.



Above, fjord Below, Trondheim, Norway



A Pause for Dr. Park

I have been awarded (pending final, final approval) a sabbatical for the Spring term, 2008.

I will spend the semester reading about college teaching. I will explore what the research tells us about how young adults learn best, as related to their developmental stages, learning styles, research on how knowledge is best acquired and other factors.

I will use my learning to create some intensive classroom and out-of-classroom active learning exercises and assignments that I will bring to my classes. And I will read teaching journals to adapt interesting teaching techniques that others

have developed.

I am really looking forward to having a stretch of time to read, reflect, and create, without the rigors of a daily teaching schedule!

I also have just been accepted to participate in a Faculty Development Seminar in Nicaragua this summer through the Council on International Educational Exchange. The seminar consists of lectures and site visits in Managua and other cities, and is focused especially around the 1979 Sandinista Revolution and era and the shift toward neoliberal policies since that time. Specific topics that we will explore include Nicaraguan politics

and economics, U.S. influence in Nicaragua, and the roles of NGOs and religion in development processes.

I plan to bring my learning from the seminar into several of my courses, especially Women in Cross-Cultural Perspective, Cultural Anthropology, and Religion and Society.

My interest in Nicaragua comes from my long-standing interest in Latin American development issues, and because the country offers a wonderful comparison to Cuba (where I traveled with students in 1997) with its revolutionary socialist experiment.

What is Going on in the Department? (cont. from page 1)

Dr. Kitzerow and Dr. Tomlinson recently completed a survey of the 6000+ members of the Allegheny County Bar Association. They are continuing the analysis of the data, so you'll be hearing much more about this work.

Their findings on pay, law school experience, occupational settings, attitudes, and demographics were front page news in the Pittsburgh papers and prompted the formation of a taskforce within the bar association. The mission of the taskforce is to accelerate progress

within the law for women and other minority status groups.

In addition to regular and important committee service and leadership:

- Dr. Tomlinson serves as Director of the Drinko Center
- Dr. Kitzerow serves as Coordinator of the Gender Studies Committee
- Dr. Cohen chairs LawPAC
- Dr. Rhoads is getting ready for the next Mock Convention.

Welcome Dr. Mark Wintz for the Spring Semester:

During the Spring, 2007 Semester, Dr. Mark Wintz will be a visiting Instructor of Political Science, and will teach Introduction to International Politics and American Foreign Policy.

Dr. Wintz received his B.A. from Kent State University, a M.A. from The University of Akron, and will receive his Ph.D. (this December) from the University of Pittsburgh. His research focuses on the U.S.-European relationship, with an emphasis on security issues.

His office will be 229A Patterson Hall.

How I Spent my Summer Vacation *Dr. Ed Cohen*

Most of my summer was dedicated to writing up some of the results of my ongoing research on international economic law and globalization.

I finished revising a chapter that will appear in a book entitled *Law and Legalization in Transnational Relations*, Dirk Lehmkuhl and Christian Brutsch, eds., to be published by Routledge in February, 2007.

I also worked on revising a manuscript for the journal *Review of International Political Economy*, and writing a paper for presentation at a conference in Bath, England.

I presented this paper, "From Sources to Impact: Contracts, Dispute Resolution Systems and Governance in a World of Legal and

Regulatory Pluralism", at the conference of the Standing Group on Regulatory Governance of the European Consortium for Political Research, at the University of Bath, September 6-8, 2006.

Now, I'm focusing on adjusting to my new position as Chair of the Department.

Musings from Atty. Brenda Marino

I graduated with honors in 1987 from Westminster College receiving a BA in both Sociology, with a concentration in criminal justice, and Political Science. I graduated from Dickinson Law School in 1990.

Upon graduating from law school, I worked as an Assistant District Attorney and a contract juvenile law attorney in Lawrence County. In 2001, I was appointed by the court

to serve as Special Master of all asbestos cases in Lawrence County and will accept a position as Special Master of custody cases in the near future.

In addition to my legal career, I have been teaching in the Political Science/Sociology Department of Westminster College for over 10 years. I have had the privilege to teach several classes in the depart-

ment including Principles of Sociology, Juvenile Delinquency, Criminology, Deviance, and Sociology of Law.

It is my passion to teach, and I am grateful to be able to share ideas and engage in stimulating dialogues with my students. For me, there is no greater or more noble profession than teaching!

Honor Student Research *Colby King*

Since the spring of 2006, I have been working toward an honors research project that examines cultural interaction between members of the Seneca Nation of Indians and non-native citizens living in the city of Salamanca, NY—the only U.S. city within a Native American reservation.

The methods I am using include interviews with non-natives as well as participant observation of some public and semi-public situations. The research will explore the impact of living with and near the minority (Seneca Indians) on members of the majority (non-native citizens).

Through analysis within both political contexts of interaction and other areas of social life in Salamanca, my research will examine the conceptions majority members have constructed about their lives.

The Department of Political Science and Sociology and supportive members of Westminster's faculty have been tremendous sources of knowledge and providers of guidance to this project. The Drinko Center also provided assistance through an undergraduate research grant. Research is cool, everyone's been helpful, and I'm excited to see results early this spring.

Department Information

	Room	Extension
Dr. E. Cohen	PH 227	7304
Dr. K. Park	PH 217	7251
Dr. G. Lilly	PH 216	7250
Dr. V. Tomlinson	PH 218	6033
Dr. P. Kitzerow	PH 219	7252
Dr. J. Rhoads	PH 229 B	7255
Dr. S. Smithey	PH 229 C	6247
Debbie Sanchez	PH 226	7253



August 11, 2006
1:23 a.m.
6 lbs. 6 oz.
19 inches

Farewell to Dr. Grove and Welcome...

As you may know, Dr. Andrea Grove left us at the end of last year for the sunnier and warmer climes of Southern California.

In addition to her new teaching job, Andrea and her husband, Chris Scholl, welcomed their son Ethan Michael to the world on August 11th, 2006.

While we will miss Andrea's many contributions to the Department and the College, we look forward to adding a new face to the Department.

Our major task this fall is to hire a replacement, a process which has already begun. Interviews began in November.

**DEPARTMENT OF
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& SOCIOLOGY**

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http://www.westminster.edu/acad/pols/dept/ps_home.cfm

Hey, Everyone, Come to Oxford in Fall 2007

Dr. Phyllis Kitzerow (Sociology) and Dr. Deborah Mitchell are going to be the faculty for the 2007 Westminster at Oxford program. Twenty to twenty five students will have the chance to go with them.

Dr. Kitzerow and Dr. Mitchell will be offering their cluster course "Gender Through Film" which offers both HC and ST Intellectual Perspective credit as well as the cluster credit. Each will also be offering another course. Dr. Mitchell will be offering a course

on Jane Austen while Dr. Kitzerow will offer an elective that works best for the majority of the students going. A course in British Politics will be offered by an adjunct faculty member there.

Students will be staying with a family and eating breakfast and dinner with their families. Many students take advantage of the three day weekends to travel. Some travel is arranged by the program. The costs are the same as a term at Westminster with the addition of a \$1000 deposit (due in

February) which covers transportation and fees.

Financial aid goes with the student overseas.

If you're interested, talk to

- Dr. Kitzerow (7252)
- Dr. Mitchell (7030)
- Dr. Bersett (7259) or
- Doreen Matune (7121).

Don't miss this chance to see England and other countries with 25 people who will become your closest friends.



Left: Time for playing tourist.

Right: Time for relaxing and talking.

